(d) if so, whether Government propose to restrict the manufacturers of cigarette to produce limited quantity and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) As per information received-from the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, sales of cigarettes have increased by 5.7% in 2002-03 after a decline of 11 % during the previous year. The Government has been taking various administrative steps and undertaking IEC activities to regulate and discourage smoking. Also a comprehensive legislation titled "The Cigarettes and other Tabacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003" has been enacted this year, which intends to discourage the use of tobacco products through various control measures like total ban on advertisement of tobacco products, prohibition of smoking in public places and ban on sale of tobacco products to persons below 18 years of age. However, at this stage, there is no proposal to impose any restriction on the manufacture of cigarettes.

Free treatment for poor in private hospitals

† 750. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Apollo Hospital and other private hospitals were allotted land on concessional rates on the condition that they would provide free treatment to the poor;

(b) whether it is also a fact that so far these hospitals have not provided free treatment to the poor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Apollo Hospital has expressed its inability to provide free treatment to the poor;

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(e) whether Government would formulate uniform policy for all private hospitals?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) Regulation of private hospitals in Delhi comes within the purview of Government of NCT of Delhi who have informed that Apollo Hospital and some other private hospitals were allotted land on concessional rates and there has been definite shortfall on the part of these hospitals in providing free treatment to the poor. To look into this aspect, the Government of NCT of Delhi had set up a high level Committee headed by Justice A.S. Quareshi which had submitted its report. The recommendations of the Committee have been accepted by the Government of NCT of Delhi and modalities are being worked out to give effect to these recommendations.

Leprosy patients in Orissa

751. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of leprosy patients in Orissa is on the rise as per a survey report.

(b) whether the State has 7.12 leprosy patients per ten thousand population as against the national average of 4.2;

(c) whether a leprosy eradication programme was launched in 1983 with the Central and outside assistance; and

(d) if so, the progress achieved so far to control leprosy cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) The number of new cases detected in the State during the last 4 years shows declining trend in the number of new leprosy cases in Orissa. The National Leprosy Eradication Programme launched in the country in 1983, has resulted in the reduction of leprosy prevalence rate from 121.40/10,000 in 1981 to 7.32/10,000 in March, 2003 in Orissa.